

## Smith Sees CIA Squabble As Gain for Republicans

CPYRGHT

By NED CURRAN  
World Washington Bureau.

WASHINGTON—Rep. James Smith of Chickasha said Thursday the controversy over the Central Intelligence Agency's financing of student organizations may become political capital for the Republicans in 1968.

Smith, a freshman Republican conservative, criticized the CIA and said that the latest disclosure of its activities may reflect on the administration and its chances in the next election.

"We have got to have integrity in government," Smith said, "I think this was unwise and poor judgment by the leadership of our country. It may just cause people to take another look in 1968."

Smith's reaction was not the only unusual one among Oklahoma members of Congress. Reps. Ed Edmondson of Muskogee and Tom Steed of Shawnee parted from the otherwise liberal-conservative pigeon-holding to express wariness in jumping on the CIA too quickly.

### Harris Pushes Project

At the same time, Sen. Fred Harris used the controversy to plump for his idea of creating a national foundation for the social sciences, which is the subject of hearings before a subcommittee he heads.

Smith, describing the whole thing as "quite a fiasco," went on to say: "In the days of Adam Clayton Powell and Bobby Baker it is essential that we have confidence in our government, but this undermines the confidence of the people in the CIA and it doesn't do the education community any good, either."

Smith also said there is a possibility that the House Armed Services Committee, of which he is a member, may investigate the affair.

### Approval Seen

Steed added that committees of both houses of Congress approve CIA expenditures and "It is inconceivable to me that the committees didn't know about it so it must have had some sort of congressional acquiescence."

In fact, Steed added, a somewhat allied matter came up several years ago when the select subcommittee on small business, of which he was a member, delved into tax-exempt foundations.

"I'm a little hazy on it now," he said, "but I think some of them were CIA-financed. We weren't looking for that sort of thing then so I didn't pay much attention to it."

Steed also touched on the same argument that Edmondson did—"There may have been circumstances at the time (early 1950s) that warranted such a financial relationship."

### More Facts Needed

His point, as well as Edmondson's, was that he is not ready to condemn the intelligence agency until he knows all the facts surrounding the origin of the situation.

"We have to recognize that there may have been justification for intervention (by the CIA) into student organization affairs at the time. There may have been an excuse for it that no longer exists. We get very much dis-

turbed over any Communist infiltration and if that was the case then, this whole thing could be viewed in a very different light," was the way Edmondson put it.

To which Steed added "It is like fighting fire with fire and if we have to do it that way, why not?"

Rep. Page Belcher said that he would rather withhold judgment until all the facts are brought out.

The confusion of ideologies stem from the fact that so far the controversy finds liberals taking up the anti-CIA chorus with glee while conservatives are generally remaining silent, implying approval of the agency's actions.

Taking a different tack, Harris interrupted his subcommittee hearings to declare that he is "deeply disturbed and saddened" to learn of the CIA affair.

He said it should have been carried out openly, adding: "It is of interest to us, however, in a collateral way because it may deepen the unjustified present suspicion in some foreign quarters of U.S.-financed social and behavioral science research in foreign countries."

"This is, of course, a serious concern of our subcommittee. It is my personal and individual view that this problem can best be approached by the establishment of a separate, civilian agency for the federal funding of such research in foreign countries now largely funded through the Defense Department."

FOIAb3b

CPYRGHT